



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,875	09/29/2003	Mahesh J. Deshmane	42P17507	6817
8791 7590 07/26/2007 BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			EXAMINER SUGENT, JAMES F	
			ART UNIT 2116	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/26/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is sent in response to Applicant's Communication received May 10, 2007 for application number 10/675,875 originally filed September 29, 2003. The Office hereby
5 acknowledges receipt of the following and placed of record in file: amended claims 1-28
(wherein claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 25, 27 and 28 are canceled) are presented for
examination.

10

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the Specification states that "FIG. 4 illustrates one
embodiment of a reference current generator 340" (paragraph 21, lines 4-6) but Fig. 4 uses
reference number "350." Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are
required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended
15 replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior
version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an
amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the
appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the
remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of
20 the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be
necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after
the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet"

Art Unit: 2116

or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

5

Claim Objections

Claims 19 and 20 are noted as canceled in the Remarks, received May 10, 2007.

However, on the amended Claims sheet, also received May 10, 2007, claims 19 and 20 are marked as "Currently Amended."

Please specify on amended Claims sheet that claims 19 and 20 have been have been

10 "Canceled."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

15 The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 18 has two signal references with the same name ("a signal", lines 2 and 4; "the signal", lines 3, 7, 9 and 10) which renders the claim indefinite. Suggest amending the claims to clarify the understanding of the two separate signals as presented in the other independent claims.

Art Unit: 2116

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 11, 13-15, 18, 21, 22, 24 and 26 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter in re independent claim 1:

- 5 As to independent claim 1, Chen teaches a computer system comprising: a bus (Figs. 2 and 5); and a chipset (22), coupled to the bus (as shown in Figs. 2 and 5), having: an input/output (I/O) buffer (44 and/or 46), coupled to the bus (as shown in Fig. 5), to transmit an output signal from the chipset via the bus (column 13, lines 4-38); control logic (slew control circuit 56) to detect the slew rate of a signal and to adjust the slew rate based upon the state of the signal
- 10 (column 13, lines 26-38 and column 11, line 65 thru column 12, line 13). Namiki further teaches a slew rate detection mechanism, coupled to the bus, to detect a slew rate of the output signal buffer and to generate a signal indicating a status of the slew rate; and, the control logic is coupled to the slew rate detection mechanism to transmit the signal indicating the slew rate (column 3, lines 30-46 and column 9, lines 14-30 and Fig. 8 and column 9, lines 14- 53).
- 15 However, neither Chen nor Namiki, either singularly or in combination, teaches a reference current generator to generate a reference current; and, a comparator to compare the received signal current to the reference current; and, a first converter to convert the signal current to a signal voltage; and, a second converter, coupled to the reference current generator and the comparator to convert the reference to a reference voltage nor could these limitations be found in
- 20 further examiner's search. Therefore, independent claim 1 is deemed allowable. Furthermore, dependent claims 4-6, 9 and 10 are also allowed based on dependence to independent claim 1.

Likewise, independent claims 11 and 22 also comprise similar limitations and are therefore deemed allowable for the same reasons shown above in re independent claim 1. Furthermore, dependent claims 13-15, 24 and 26 are also allowed based on dependence to independent claims 11 and 22.

5 Independent claim 18 would also be deemed allowable for the same reasons above pending amendment to overcome rejection under *35 USC § 112, second paragraph* hereinabove.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time
10 policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period
15 will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

20 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to James Sugent whose telephone number is (571) 272-5726. The Examiner can normally be reached on 8AM - 4PM.


Art Unit: 2116

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on (571) 272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

- 5 Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free). If you would
- 10 like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call (800) 786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or (571) 272-1000.

James F. Sugent
Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2116
15 July 20, 2007


JAMES K. TRWILLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TC 2100